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RHODESIA'S "ACT OF REALISM"

ANNCR: NEWS ANALYST FRED GALVAN EXAMINES THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN THE RHODESIAN SITUATION.

VOICE: THE RHODESIAN REGIME'S ACCEPTANCE OF AN ANGLO-AMERICAN FORMULA FOR MAJORITY RULE WITHIN TWO YEARS TOUCHED OFF STATEMENTS OF OPTIMISM MIXED WITH REALISM HERE IN WASHINGTON. PRESIDENT FORD CALLED THE SMITH REGIME'S DECISION A "FIRST STEP" BRINGING PEACE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA CLOSER. SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER, LANDING IN WASHINGTON FRIDAY FOLLOWING HIS ELEVEN-DAY MISSION TO SOUTHERN AFRICA, CALLED THE DECISION "ENCOURAGING PROGRESS" TOWARD SETTLING THE RHODESIAN ISSUE AND A DEVELOPMENT THAT PAVES THE WAY TOWARD A SOLUTION OF THE NAMIBIAN QUESTION. BUT, HE ADDED, MUCH REMAINS TO BE DONE.

THE THURST OF BOTH OFFICIAL REACTIONS FROM WASHINGTON WAS THAT WHILE BRITAIN AND THE UNITED STATES WORKED EFFECTIVELY TOGETHER TO BRING RHODESIA'S BLACK AFRICAN NEIGHBORS AND THE SALISBURY REGIME CLOSER TO THE NEGOTIATING TABLE, THE ULTIMATE SOLUTION RESTS WITH THEM. BOTH MEN MADE IT CLEAR AT LEAST BY IMPLICATION THAT THE SOLUTION MUST BE AN AFRICAN SOLUTION INVOLVING THE PARTIES DIRECTLY CONCERNED-- THE BLACK MAJORITY AND WHITE MINORITY IN RHODESIA, AND ITS BLACK NEIGHBOR-GOVERNMENTS.

INDEED, THE RHODESIAN PRIME MINISTER, IAN SMITH, EMPHASIZED THIS ASPECT IN HIS SPEECH ANNOUNCING THE SALISBURY GOVERNMENT'S DECISION. HE SAID THAT THE MAJORITY-RULE CONSITUTION ENVISIONED IN THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS WILL BE DRAWN UP BY RHODESIANS OF BOTH RACES, AND NOT IMPOSED

FROM OUTSIDE. IN FACT, PRESIDENT FORD, IN HIS OWN STATEMENT WARNED AGAINST ANY SUCH OUTSIDE IMPOSITION WHEN HE URGED ALL GOVERNMENTS TO SUPPORT AND NOT IMPEDE WHAT HE CALLED "THE AFRICAN SEARCH FOR A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT IN RHODESIA.

MEANWHILE, IN LUSAKA, RHODESIA'S BLACK AFRICAN NEIGHBORS ARE MEETING TO DISCUSS THE SMITH GOVERNMENT'S ACCEPTANCE OF THE ANGLO-BRITISH PROPOSALS. THAT MEETING IS CRUCIAL TO FURTHER PROGRESS. A MAJOR QUESTION FACING THE LEADERS OF BOTSWANA, ANGOLA, MOZAMBIQUE, ZAMBIA AND TANZANIA IS WHETHER THEY CAN HEAL THE SPLIT WITHIN THE RANKS OF RHODESIA'S BLACK NATIONALIST MOVEMENTS. FOR WITHOUT UNITY AMONG BLACK NATIONALISTS, IT IS DIFFICULT IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE TO SEE HOW NEGOTIATIONS WITH RHODESIA'S WHITE MINORITY GOVERNMENT COULD MOVE AHEAD.

IT WAS PROBABLY WITH THIS IN MIND THAT PRESIDENT FORD SAID IN HIS STATEMENT THAT "IT IS MY EARNEST HOPE THAT THE SEVERAL PARTIES WILL NOW MOVE SWIFTLY TO ESTABLISH THE CONDITIONS FOR INDEPENDENCE IN WHICH ALL OF (RHODESIA'S) PEOPLE CAN LIVE TOGETHER IN HARMONY. TODAY," HE SAID, "WE HAVE SEEN AN ACT OF REALISM THAT IS THE FIRST STEP TOWARD THAT GOAL. WITH GOOD WILL ON ALL SIDES THAT VISION CAN BECOME A REALITY."

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